

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BANJUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2294

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS:PFOR, GA, US

SUBJ: USDEL TO GAMBIAN TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING TELEGRAM SUMMARIZES SUCCESSFUL PARTICIPATION USDEL IN OBSERVANCES GAMBIAN TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. SUNDAY: USDEL LED BY AMB L. DEAN BROWN AND INCLUDING MRS. ERNESTA PROCOPE AND AMB O. RUDOLPH AGGREY, ARRIVED BANJUL FEB 16 0950. MEMBERS OF USDEL RETURNED TO AIRPORT AT 1730 TO WELCOME GUESTS OF HONOR, PRES. AND MRS OULD DADDAH OF MAURITANIA.

2. MONDAY: USDEL RECEIVED BRIEFING AT CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICE (CRS) OFFICE ON PL-480 PRE-SCHOOL AND SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAMS FOR 16,000 GAMBIAN SCHOOL CHILDREN. LATER GROUP ATTENDED OPENING OF ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW AND LAYING OF NEW CENTRAL BANK BUILDING CORNERSTONE BY PRES. JAWARA. IN EARLY AFTERNOON USDEL CALLED ON PRESIDENT
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TO PRESENT LETTER OF OFFICIAL GREETINGS AND

PERSONAL GIFT FROM PRES. FORD. MEETING WITH PRES JAWARA PARTICULARLY CORDIAL, AND HE DESCRIBED PRES FORD'S LTR AS "ESPECIALLY WARM". THREE-HOUR CULTURAL PROGRAM OF MUSIC AND DANCE FOLLOWED CALL ON PRESIDENT, AND DAY'S ACTIVITIES CONCLUDED WITH LARGE RECEPTION AT STATE HOUSE.

3. TUESDAY: DAY BEGAN WITH MARCH-PAST OF GAMBIAN FIELD FORCE, COLORFUL AND TOUCHING PARADE OF THOUSANDS OF PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN, AND PRES JAWARA'S BRIEF ADDRESS TO GAMBIA'S FUTURE LEADERS. AMB AGGREY THEN JOINED BANJUL DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN CALL ON PRESIDENT, WHERE DEAN (GUINEAN AMB BANGOURA) EXTENDED CORPS' FELICITATIONS. AMONG NEW FACES WERE AMBASSADORS OF SAUDI ARABIA AND DDR (BOTH NON-RESIDENT), THE PRC CHARGE, AND A NEW PLO RESREP, ABDUL HAMID AZZAM, MAKING HIS FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE.

4. USDEL MET AMERICAN COMMUNITY, INCLUDING PCVS, IESC VOLS, AND UNDP RESREP AT EMBASSY RESIDENCE PRIOR TO JOINING MORE THAN 100 GUESTS AT STATE HOUSE BUFFET SUPPER. ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED BY GAMBIAN NATIONAL ENSEMBLE.

5. WEDNESDAY: MEMBERS USDEL ATTENDED MANSA BENG (CONFERENCE OF CHIEFS) AT BRIKAMA. CHIEFS PAID COLORFUL PERSONAL HOMAGE TO TWO CHIEFS OF STATE. PRES JAWARA IN TURN PRAISED UNIFYING ROLE OF CHIEFS DURING FIRST DECADE OF INDEPENDENCE AND CITED US AS AMONG COUNTRIES THAT HAD SENT "MINISTERIAL LEVEL" DELEGATIONS. USDEL DEPARTED FOR DAKAR AT 1850.

6. COMMENT: FESTIVITIES WERE MODESTLY CONCEIVED AND CONDUCTED THROUGHOUT. EMPHASIS ON PAST ACHIEVEMENTS BALANCED BY SOBER APPRAISAL OF TASKS AHEAD. AFRO-ARAB TILT HEAVILY EMPHASIZED WHILE PRC DEL, HEADED BY WOMAN MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH LIU HSIANG-P'ING, ACCORDED GREAT DEFERENCE. AMBASSADOR OF RVN, DANG NGOC TRAN, FEELING INCREASINGLY ISOLATED, SOMEWHAT REASSURED BY GOTG SEC GEN'S STATEMENT THAT PRES JAWARA PLANNED TO VISIT SAIGON AND SEOUL LATER THIS YEAR.

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THIS AGAIN WILL BE CAREFULLY BALANCED BY SPRING VISIT TO USSR. PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO PEKING THIS YEAR UNLIKELY.

AGGREY

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